

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 4682 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 15 DEC

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 4682

EO 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR CA

SUBJ MEETING WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

REF OTTAWA 4639; STATE 293066

1. MEETING WITH LEADING GROUP OF CANADIAN CORRESPONDENTS AND COMMENTATORS OCCURRED SATURDAY NIGHT AS SCHEDULED. REPORTING WAS INITIALLY SOMEWHAT SENSATIONAL, BUT HAS NOW APPARENTLY SETTLED DOWN TO MORE EVEN TONE.

2. CERTAIN ITEMS WERE DISTORTED BY TV COMMENTATORS INITIALLY, AND ONE OR TWO CLARIFICATIONS MIGHT BE IN ORDER IN CASE QUESTIONS ARISE DURING DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING.

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3. COMMENT WAS MADE THAT I WAS PLEASED OVER DEFEAT OF

PREMIER BARRETT AND NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA LAST WEEK, WHICH I ALLEGEDLY SAW AS BENEFICIAL TO OUR INTERESTS. FACT IS I DID NOT MENTION EITHER BARRETT OR NDP. I SAID ON SUBJECT, "IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY WHAT EFFECT RECENT EVENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE ON OUR INTERESTS."

4. I WAS ASKED WHETHER MY REMARKS ABOUT RISING CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES IMPLIED THAT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND TRUDEAU SHOULD TAKE PLACE. I REPLIED THAT I LIKE THE IDEA BECAUSE THE MEETING LAST YEAR WAS BENEFICIAL, BUT CANADIANS SHOULD REMEMBER WE ARE MOVING INTO AN ELECTION YEAR WHICH MADE MEETING RATHER UNLIKELY.

5. I WAS ASKED IF CANADIAN MOVE AGAINST TIME MAGAZINE (TIME CORRESPONDENT WAS PRESENT) WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HAD IN MIND IN MAKING MY COMMENTS. I REPLIED THAT I WAS NOT COMMENTING ON PARTICULAR ITEMS, BUT AS THIS ONE HAD BEEN MENTIONED I COULD EXPRESS BELIEF THAT IT WOULD SHOW UP IN MEDIA COMMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AS IT HAD ALREADY IN CANADA.

6. I REFUSED TO LIST FOR CORRESPONDENTS MATTERS WHICH WE THINK ARE GIVING RISE TO CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES, STRESSING THAT I WAS DEALING WITH AMERICAN REACTIONS TO SUBJECTS WELL KNOWN HERE.

7. I DO NOT RECALL USING TERM, "A BAD TURN OF EVENTS," CITED BY ONE CORRESPONDENT IN MONTREAL GAZETTE DESPATCH THIS MORNING.
PORTER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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